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WHOLE 2791

BUSINESS SECTION OF SAN FRANCISCO IS DESTROYED BY AN EARTHQUAKE

The long suspense has been broken. San Francisco and California are once more in touch with the world. The story of the great disaster will come in its harrowing details. The news printed this morning puts the stricken people within the reach of human sympathy.

At 11:30 last night the following service message was received by Cable Superintendent Gaines from the superintendent in New York:

"Our San Francisco superintendent is now at the hut. They are trying to get a battery connected up with the cable."

That meant that the long tension would soon be broken.

"That cablegram is doubtless several hours old," said Mr. Gaines,

in repeating this message to the Advertiser over the telephone.

As the message reached Honolulu at 11:30, it must have been not much later than nine o'clock. The message being several hours old when it reached Mr. Gaines, as he says, it follows that the work of connecting up a battery had then been under way for several hours.

The relieving feature of the message lay in this, that it showed

that, whatever the nature of the calamity that had befallen the California mainland, there were still men living in San Francisco who were trying to get into communication with the outside world.

It showed, moreover, that communication with San Francisco had been secured by the New York cable office. And that was much—how much, the people of Honolulu who have lived now through forty-eight hours of dreadful suspense, can appreciate.

HONOLULU IS APPALLED BY THE DISASTER

(From Thursday's Advertiser.)

Honolulu was thrilled, yesterday morning early, when the news was flashed under the sea that San Francisco had been stricken down by earthquake—was thrilled, and then the life of this little city stood still while men gathered in all public places to discuss the disaster, to go over and over its meager details, to hope against hope that cable communication would be re-established and that word might be had of loved ones known to have been in the vicinity of the disturbed region. Sure word it was that was wanted. Not at such times does idle rumor satisfy the deep anxiety that preys upon the human heart.

The news of the disaster came to Honolulu in the dispatches received at the cable office here by Superintendent Gaines and summarized as follows. The news was received between the hours of three and seven-thirty in the morning, Honolulu time, which would be between the hours of five and ten in the morning, San Francisco time.

"The district from Montgomery street south—(this probably should read east, as Montgomery street runs north and south)—is destroyed."

"From cable office, both sides of buildings on fire and destroyed."

"Call building on fire and destroyed."

"Palace and Grand-Hotels both burned down."

"Martial law declared."

"The water coming up Market street."

"Cable office closed at 7:30 on account of fire."

"Water mains destroyed at first, but supply of water has been obtained."

Interpolated in this, following the paragraph stating that the cable office had closed at 7:30, are the words: "And do not expect to have any communication with the San Francisco office until 11 o'clock, Honolulu time."

That was all that came from San Francisco direct all day long. At a late hour last night, the cable to San Francisco was tested, and it was found that it was unbroken to a point close to the landing place on the beach below the CHH House. Whether the land station had been destroyed, or whether the operators were unable to establish communication at the other end, was not known.

That was all that came, all through the day, and in the meantime the anxiety grew, and business in Honolulu was at a standstill. The people waited, hoping and fearing. At ten o'clock in the morning, there was noticed in the waters about this island a slight tidal flutter but so slight that it was deemed that the tidal disturbance at San Francisco, at least, had been merely local.

Actually what had occurred on the mainland, no man could say. But it was evident to those who know San Francisco that a cataclysm had occurred there, that the made land which is between Montgomery street and the waterfront had been dislodged by an earthquake shock or a series of them heavier than usual, and that the whole business district of the city or rather the wholesale business district had gone down in ruin. The loss of life must have been large in any event. The loss of property will inevitably reach into the millions.

In that part of the city, at the early hour at which the disaster came, there were still hundreds of people, night workers who had not yet gone home, watchmen, commission merchants and their employees getting ready to feed the city, clerks and messengers, market men and peddlers, fishermen and gardeners, rattling in their wagons through the streets to meet death in

the tumble of tall buildings down upon them.

If the disaster had occurred a few hours later, in the rush of business hours, there would have been two hundred thousand people exposed to danger of death. Many must have been exposed, as it was, in the hotels that the fire following the earthquake and landslide destroyed.

And, in the cities about the bay, the bedrooms for the workers of San Francisco, in the ships at anchor and lying at the docks, the loss of life can not but have been appalling. It may take years, indeed, to learn the names of all those who have perished.

All this Honolulu felt, and, feeling, suffered in its anguish at the lack of sure news. A little before midnight, the cable office announced that messages would be received for San Francisco via New York at sender's risk.

The underworld, it is true, had sent its message of disaster, recorded in the seismograph at Sinal. "The record showed vibrations this morning lasting six minutes, which is unusually long," said R. E. Nyswander, clerk in the U. S. Magnetic Station at Ewa, last night. "I did not note the time, for I was leaving when I read it, but I have no doubt that it compares with the time of the earthquake in San Francisco, for we compared them before, and they did not vary more than a minute or two."

It was stated by another gentleman that the vibrations of the seismograph continued very hard for six minutes, the lines running from side to side of the tape, in swift jerks, and that after the first heavy shocks the uneasiness of the surface of the earth continued for at least one hour.

"There have been no more vibrations of the earth's surface observed after the first heavy one this morning," said Prof. W. D. Alexander last night.

That is the one bit of good news that the long day carried. It means that after the first shock of the disaster its intensity was in lessening force. Those in Honolulu who have relatives or friends in the danger zone can but hope and pray, now, when they think of the names of their loved ones. There will be material aid for San Francisco from all parts of America and the civilized world. In this work Honolulu will go its share, more than gladly.

Honolulu has always been close to the great California seaport, and will be drawn closer by this awful calamity.

In the business community yesterday all work ceased, virtually, and public and private business was at a standstill. The steamer Alameda, booked to

leave for the mainland early, was delayed until nine o'clock this morning, and merchants who had made orders of goods by her duplicated their orders to Seattle. That was a precautionary measure. It was not desired that there should be a shortage of provisions in Honolulu, which draws its supplies in large measure from San Francisco.

The request for information as to the San Francisco disaster was sent by Mr. Phillips to his Portland correspondent at 8:30 Wednesday morning.



A MARKET STREET ANGLE OF SAN FRANCISCO'S \$6,000,000 CITY HALL.



THE PALACE HOTEL, NOW DESTROYED

LITTLE NEWS COMES VIA ASIA

Alexander & Baldwin Get Brief Message From New York.

The following messages were all that were received at the cable office yesterday up to the time that Superintendent Gaines heard at 11:30 that San Francisco was trying to get the cable open at that end:

HONGKONG, April 18.—The latest report received here is that the land system in California is paralyzed.

[By land system, the Western Union and Postal Telegraph lines are supposed to be meant.]

The following, from the New York office of Alexander & Baldwin, was given out for publication as soon as it was received in Honolulu:

NEW YORK, April 18, 9:30 P. M.—To Alexander & Baldwin, Honolulu: Alexander & Baldwin's offices, 308 Market street, have been destroyed. No advices.

ADMIRAL M'CALLA WOULD GET NEWS

"If there were any possible way to get word out to the world from San Francisco, Admiral McCalla, Commandant at the Mare Island Navy Yard, would get it out. If anyone in the world could do it, he could."

Read Admiral Lyon spoke as above at a late hour last night. He had received no answer at that time from the message sent by him to the Navy Department, but was assured that word would come at the first possible opportunity.

"Admiral McCalla has proved his executive ability. At Peking, during the time that the Chinese capital was cut off from the outside world by the hordes of Boxers, he was enabled to devise means to get into communication with the advancing relief column from Tientsin. If it were possible to get out word from San Francisco he would organize a pony express if necessary to get his despatches across the country affected by the disturbance."

TEST THE CABLE.

Tests made of the cable last night show that the line reaches the CHH House beach but that beyond there the connection is broken. Four is expected that the beach station of the cable company has been washed away and that the expert who repairs broken cables has lost his life.

ONE MESSAGE COMES VIA MANILA

Mr. Phillips Receives Word From Portland Oregon.

The following cablegram from one of the leading firms of Portland, Oregon, was received in Honolulu, via New York and Manila, at 12:30 this morning:

"Manny Phillips, Honolulu: No private messages. Business district destroyed. Residences reported safe. Will wire."

The request for information as to the San Francisco disaster was sent by Mr. Phillips to his Portland correspondent at 8:30 Wednesday morning.